

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF WISCONSIN

ADAM PLETCHER and SAMANTHA PLETCHER,
Plaintiffs,

v.

Case No. 20-cv-811

SPARKPLUG CAPITAL, LLC,
Defendant.

PROTECTIVE ORDER

Based on the Stipulation of the parties and the factual representations set forth therein, the Court finds that exchange of sensitive information between or among the parties and/or third parties other than in accordance with this Order may cause unnecessary damage and injury to the parties or to others. The Court further finds that the terms of this Order are fair and just and that good cause has been shown for entry of a protective order governing the confidentiality of documents produced in discovery, answers to interrogatories, answers to requests for admission, and deposition testimony.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that, pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(c) and Civil L. R. 26(e):

(A) DESIGNATION OF CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION. Designation of information under this Order must be made by placing or affixing on the document or material, in a manner that will not interfere with its legibility, the words "CONFIDENTIAL".

- (1) One who produces information, documents, or other material may designate them as "CONFIDENTIAL" and/or redact information when the person in good faith believes they contain trade secrets or nonpublic confidential technical, commercial, financial, personal, or business information.
- (2) Except for information, documents, or other materials produced for inspection at the party's facilities, the designation of confidential information as CONFIDENTIAL must be made prior to, or contemporaneously with, their production or disclosure. In the event that information, documents or other materials are produced for inspection at the party's facilities, such information, documents, or other materials may be produced for inspection before being marked confidential. Once specific information, documents, or other materials have been designated for copying, any information, documents, or other materials containing confidential information will then be marked confidential after copying but before delivery to the party who inspected and designated them. There will be no waiver of confidentiality by the inspection of confidential information, documents, or other materials before they are copied and marked confidential pursuant to this procedure.
- (3) Portions of depositions of a party's present and former officers, directors, employees, agents, experts, and representatives will be deemed confidential only if designated

as such when the deposition is taken or within 30 days of receipt of the deposition transcript.

- (4) If a party inadvertently produces information, documents, or other material containing CONFIDENTIAL information, documents, or other material protected by the attorney work-product doctrine, or any other applicable privileged information without marking or labeling it as such, the information, documents, or other material shall not lose its protected status through such production and the parties shall take all steps reasonably required to assure its continued confidentiality if the producing party provides written notice to the receiving party within 10 days of the discovery of the inadvertent production, identifying the information, document, or other material in question and of the corrected confidential designation. Should any party discover a document produced by another party appears to have been inadvertently produced and/or to be covered by any applicable privilege, the recipient shall immediately contact the disclosing party or disclosing party's counsel of record to arrange for the return or destruction of the document and immediately destroy any copies that may have been made thereof.

(B) DISCLOSURE AND USE OF CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION. Information, documents, or other material designated as CONFIDENTIAL under this Order must not be used or disclosed by the pro se parties or counsel for the parties or any persons identified in subparagraphs (B)(1) below for any purposes whatsoever other than preparing for and conducting the litigation in which the information, documents, or other material were disclosed (including appeals).

- (1) **CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION.** The pro se parties and counsel for the parties must not disclose or permit the disclosure of any information, documents, or other material designated as "CONFIDENTIAL" by any other party or third party under this Order, except that disclosures may be made in the following circumstances:
 - (a) Disclosure may be made to employees of pro se parties or counsel for the parties or those who have direct functional responsibility for the preparation and trial of the lawsuit. Any such employee to whom the parties makes a disclosure must be advised of, and become subject to, the provisions of this Order requiring that the information, documents, or other material be held in confidence.
 - (b) Disclosure may be made only to employees of a party required in good faith to provide assistance in the conduct of the litigation in which the information was disclosed who are identified as such in writing to pro se parties and counsel for the other parties in advance of the disclosure of the confidential information, documents, or other material.
 - (c) Disclosure may be made to court reporters engaged for depositions and those persons, if any, specifically engaged for the limited purpose of making copies of documents or other material. Before disclosure to any such court reporter or person engaged in making copies, such reporter or person must agree to be bound by the terms of this Order.
 - (d) Disclosure may be made to consultants, investigators, or experts (collectively "experts") employed by the pro se parties or counsel for the parties to assist in

the preparation and trial of the lawsuit. Before disclosure to any expert, the expert must be informed of and agree to be subject to the provisions of this Order requiring that the information, documents, or other material be held in confidence.

- (e) Disclosure may be made to deposition and trial witnesses in connection with their testimony in the lawsuit and to the Court and the Court's staff.
- (f) Disclosure may be made to persons already in lawful and legitimate possession of such CONFIDENTIAL information.

(C) MAINTENANCE OF CONFIDENTIALITY. Except as provided in subparagraph (B), pro se parties and counsel for the parties must keep all information, documents, or other material designated as confidential that are received under this Order secure within their exclusive possession and must place such information, documents, or other material in a secure area.

- (1) All copies, duplicates, extracts, summaries, or descriptions (hereinafter referred to collectively as "copies") of information, documents, or other material designated as confidential under this Order, or any portion thereof, must be immediately affixed with the words "CONFIDENTIAL" if not already containing that designation.
- (2) To the extent that any answers to interrogatories, transcripts of depositions, responses to requests for admissions, or any other papers filed or to be filed with the Court reveal or tend to reveal information claimed to be confidential, these papers or any portion thereof must be filed under seal by the filing party with the Clerk of Court utilizing the procedures set forth in General L. R. 79(d). If a Court filing contains information, documents, or other materials that were designated "CONFIDENTIAL" by a third party, the party making the filing shall provide notice of the filing to the third party.

(D) CHALLENGES TO CONFIDENTIALITY DESIGNATION. A party may challenge the designation of confidentiality by motion. The movant must accompany such a motion with the statement required by Civil L. R. 37. The designating party bears the burden of proving that the information, documents, or other material at issue are properly designated as confidential. The Court may award the party prevailing on any such motion actual attorney fees and costs attributable to the motion.

(E) CONCLUSION OF LITIGATION. At the conclusion of the litigation, a party may request that all information, documents, or other material not filed with the Court or received into evidence and designated as CONFIDENTIAL under this Order must be returned to the originating party or, if the parties so stipulate, destroyed, unless otherwise provided by law. Notwithstanding the requirements of this paragraph, a party may retain a complete set of all documents filed with the Court, subject to all other restrictions of this Order.

SO ORDERED at Milwaukee, Wisconsin, this 1st day of April, 2021.

s/Lynn Adelman
LYNN ADELMAN
District Judge